United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1388
7 May 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Two weeks before elections in Cambodia, UNTAC is faced with increased violence which could have impact on voter turnout, Secretary-General says in new report.

- UNTAC compound attacked by armed men, leaving civilian police monitor dead, apparently of heart attack, and six personnel injured; NADK alleged to be responsible; UNTAC determined to hold 23 May elections.

- Security Council reaffirms that basis for peaceful solution to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is Vance/Owen peace plan; urges preparatory work for plan's implementation.

- UNHCR helps Bangladesh cope with 230,000 Muslim refugees from Myanmar; only 23,000 repatriated despite agreement last year.

- Second round of preparations for 1994 International Conference on Population and Development begins at Headquarters on Monday, 10 May.

- Preparatory Committee for 1995 Conference of Parties to Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons begins organizational session at Headquarters on Monday, 10 May.

- In Geneva, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights begins examination of reports by States parties.

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With elections in Cambodia two weeks away, the United Nations Transitional Authority in that country (UNTAC) is faced with increased violence which could have an impact on the voter turnout, Secretary-General said in a new report to the Security Council, dated 3 May. However, UNTAC must continue to carry out its mandate as well as it can, he writes.

The last 13 months have been a "sobering experience" for the United Nations as previous expectations had been overly optimistic, he said. The

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election would clearly not be taking place in an environment as disarmed and politically neutral as was envisaged in the Paris Agreements. The Secretary-General warned however that not to proceed would mean ceding to unacceptable threats and giving the right to veto over the peace process "to an armed group that has rejected its commitment under the Agreement".

The responsibility for Cambodia's future rested on the shoulders of the Cambodian people and parties, which are members of the Supreme National Council, as well as the parties taking part in the elections, the report said.

The Secretary-General intends to submit a further report to the Security Council on Cambodia after the election, which will contain his recommendations on UNTAC's post-electoral activities in the country. Pending that report, Mr. Boutros-Ghali has proposed that UNTAC's Military and Civilian Police Components be maintained at the present level.

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The Headquarters of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in Thpong district were attacked this morning by armed men, leaving a civilian police monitor from the Philippines dead, apparently of a heart attack, according to an UNTAC spokesman. A Civilian Police monitor from Colombia, four Bulgarian peacekeepers and a Cambodian guard were injured during the attack.

The spokesman recalled that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) had killed three Bulgarian peacekeepers in the same district on 2 April. It had been alleged that the NADK had carried out the latest attack, but that would have to be confirmed by UNTAC investigators, he said. The NADK had been responsible for killing a Colombian Civilian Police monitor on 30 April; however, it appears that UNTAC had not been the intended target.

Behrooz Sadry, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Cambodia, deplored the latest attack and other acts of violence in the last week, saying they were not only directed against UNTAC and the local population, but at the electoral process in Cambodia.

Violence would not deter UNTAC from holding the elections on 23 May, the spokesman stressed. He noted that the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, at a meeting yesterday in Beijing, had condemned the violence and reiterated its full commitment to the peace process and to the elections.

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The basis for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the Vance/Owen peace plan which the Bosnian Serbs must return to, Security Council President Yuliy M. Vorontsov (Russian Federation) said this afternoon. He made the statement to the press after consultations of the Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Council members have also expressed their conviction that preparatory work for implementation of the plan by the Secretary-General and others should continue actively in the interim, President Vorontsov said.

Meanwhile, Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, is expected to brief the European Community Council of Ministers in Brussels on Monday, 10 May, according to a United Nations spokesman. The following day, he would travel to New York to join Cyrus Vance, the outgoing Co-Chairman, for the next round of talks between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Mr. Vance has agreed to stay on until the negotiations on this matter are concluded. The new Co-Chairman is Thorvald Stoltenberg.

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Some 230,000 Muslim refugees from Myanmar are still living in camps in Bangladesh despite an agreement in April 1992 between the two countries for their safe and voluntary repatriation, according to a United Nations spokesman today. Only about 23,000 had been repatriated in the last year.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was assisting Bangladesh in determining whether the refugees wish to return home voluntarily, he said. United Nations High Commissioner Sadoka Ogata would visit Dacca in mid-May to discuss a new memorandum of understanding regarding UNHCR cooperation on the matter.

A representative of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs would travel to Myanmar to discuss the United Nations role in the return of the refugees.

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The second round of preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development will begin at Headquarters on Monday, 10 May. The Committee charged with preparing for the gathering is expected to decide on the final document to be adopted at the Conference, which will be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September, 1994.

The Committee, which ends its session on 21 May, will also consider recommendations on population growth, distribution and migration, the environment and development, women's issues, and health.

The overall theme of the 1994 Conference, as defined by the Economic and Social Council, will be population, economic growth and sustainable development.

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The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will begin its four-day organizational session at Headquarters on Monday, 10 May.

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Under the Treaty, which entered into force in 1970, States parties must not transfer nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices to any recipient, or help or encourage non-nuclear-weapon States to manufacture or acquire them. Non-nuclear-weapon States undertake to conclude safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to prevent the diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons.

Parties also undertake to pursue negotiations to end the nuclear arms race and to bring about nuclear disarmament.

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The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will examine how States Parties to the International Covenant on those rights meet their obligations when it begins its eighth session in Geneva on Monday, 10 May.

The Committee will study reports from Nicaragua, Ukraine, Iceland, Uruguay, Canada, Iran, Germany, Viet Nam and Australia on measures taken and progress made in implementing the Covenant. During its session, which ends on 20 May, the Committee will also review information from Belgium, Kenya, Lebanon and Suriname, which have not submitted reports.

The Committee was established by the Economic and Social Council in 1985 and helps it fulfill its supervisory functions relating to the International Covenant. The Covenant was adopted by the General Assembly in 1966 and entered into force in 1976.

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1389
10 May 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ In Presidential Statement, Security Council expresses grave concern at military offensive by Bosnian Croats at Mostar; strongly condems action "inconsistent with signature of Peace Plan"; demands guarantees for UNPROFOR's safety; reaffirms principle of territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ About 100 UNPROFOR troops expected to arrive in Zepa today to begin demilitarization and creation of "safe area"; fighting continues in Mostar between Bosnian Croats and Muslims.

+ Twenty-year goals should be set for States in such areas as maternal mortality, infant mortality and family planning, Secretary-General of 1994 International Conference on Population and Development tells planning Committee.

+ Security Council and General Assembly, at simultaneous meetings, elect Geza Herczegh of Hungary to fill vacancy at International Court of Justice.

+ Department of Public Information should promote United Nations as system of programmes and activities serving world's needs, Assistant Secretary-General tells Committee on Information; stresses need for dialogue and advocacy on behalf of Organization.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference continue talks on Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at Headquarters.

+ UNRWA Commissioner-General warns of substantial reduction in services to Palestinian refugees if contributions to alleviate deficit of Agency's $28.5 million are not forthcoming.

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The Security Council has expressed its grave concern at the major military offensive launched by Bosnian Croat para-military units in the areas of Mostar, Jablanica and Dreznica, and has strongly condemned such action

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which is "entirely inconsistent" with the signature by the Bosnian Croat side of the Peace Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a Presidential Statement read out last night by Council President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council reiterated its demand that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel in former Yugoslavia be allowed "unimpeded access" throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and demanded that, in this particular case, the Bosnian Croat side guarantee the safety and the security of UNPROFOR, as well as all United Nations personnel, in the areas of fighting.

The Council has also called on the Government of Croatia to exert all its influence on the Bosnian Croat leadership and para-military units "with a view to ceasing immediately their attacks". It also reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the inacceptability of the acquisition of territory by force and the practice of "ethnic cleansing".

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About 100 United Nations troops are expected to arrive in Zepa today to begin the demilitarization and to create a "safe area" as called for by Security Council resolution 824 (1993) adopted on Thursday, 6 May. Five other Bosnian towns were also declared "safe" by the Council, namely Sarajevo, Bihac, Tuzla, Srebrenica and Goradze.

According to a press release issued by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today, seven United Nations Observers who arrived in Zepa yesterday found the town badly damaged by artillery fire. Most of the population had fled to safety in nearby hills and forests where they had survived on food from airdrops organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Meanwhile, fighting continued today between forces of the Bosnian Croat Army and the Bosnian Presidency in all parts of the city of Mostar in south-west of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UNPROFOR reported that the Bosnian Croat Army were moving hundreds of civilians by bus out of Mostar. United Nations Military Observers were trying to ascertain the possible location of detention centres but were restricted in their movements in and around Mostar by the Bosnian Croat Army.

UNPROFOR Commander Lars-Eric Wahlgren would ask the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to investigate the fate of the civilian population and would instruct Military Observers to make another attempt to enter Mostar, the press release said.

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Twenty-year goals should be set for all States in such areas as maternal mortality, infant mortality and family planning, Nafis Sadik (Pakistan),

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Secretary-General of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, told the Conference's Preparatory Committee today. The recommendations made by the Conference should be comprehensive, operational and visionary, she said.

Jean-Claude Milleron (France), Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, said socio-economic development thinking at the United Nations should be at the forefront of new global trends. Citing the increasing gap between the world's developed and developing regions, he said peace could only be guaranteed by development.

During its two-week session, the Preparatory Committee is expected to agree on the final document to be adopted by the Conference, which will take place in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The aim of the Conference is to widen freedom of choice in such matters as family size, population policy and development practices. The overall theme, as defined by the Economic and Social Council, is population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

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The Security Council and the General Assembly, at simultaneous meetings held this morning, have elected Géza Herczegh of Hungary as new member of the International Court of Justice, for a term expiring on 5 February, 1994.

An expert on international humanitarian law, Mr. Herczegh has served as governmental expert at several international conferences. He has been Judge of the Constitutional Court of Hungary since 1990.

The vacancy in the Court was caused by the death of Judge Manfred Lachs of Poland earlier this year.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) should promote the United Nations as the premier mechanism for maintaining peace and security and as a system of programmes and activities serving the world's needs, Marco Vianello-Chiodo, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, said today. In an address to the Committee on Information, which is holding its fifteenth session at Headquarters from 10 to 28 May, he also stressed the need for dialogue and for advocacy on behalf of the Organization.

The DPI must provide "speaking information", such as briefings and media services; "running information", such as live coverage and press releases; and "thinking information", including information programmes, Mr. Vianello-Chiodo said. The goal was to heighten awareness of the principles, messages and values of the United Nations, to bring about a dialogue with the public, and to receive feedback in order to better focus its products. To that end, a process of "realignment", rather than of "restructuring", was underway in the Department, he said.

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During its session, the Committee will consider reports highlighting the lack of resources for implementing General Assembly requests for United Nations information activities. It will also discuss the implementation of the March 1992 decision of the Secretary-General that the operations of United Nations Information Centres should be integrated with those of the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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Cyrus Vance, the outgoing Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, met this morning with President Gligorov of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, according to a United Nations spokesman today.

Mr. Vance and the other Co-Chairman, Lord Owen, would meet tomorrow and Wednesday with representatives of the Greek Government for a final round of negotiations. Lord Owen was about to return to London from Brussels, having attended the European Community Council of Ministers meeting today, regarding the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is due in New York tomorrow.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, the new Co-Chairman replacing Mr. Vance, would be in Geneva tomorrow for meetings with Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, Deputy Chief of Mission Cedric Thornberry and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) will have to cut services substantially unless a deficit of $28.5 million is alleviated, UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen has warned. He was speaking at UNRWA's informal meeting of Governments held in Vienna on 6 and 7 May.

The Agency's finances had been further strained by the Israeli Government's closure of the occupied territory, and the economic, social and security situation there was worse than ever, Mr. Turkmen said. Unemployment was almost 50 per cent in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and violence was increasing. From 1 December 1992 to 4 May, 74 Palestinians had been killed.

Mr. Turkmen appealed for donations of flour, rice and sugar for emergency relief in the occupied territory, and for money to meet the housing and health needs of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1390
11 May 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Russian Federation casts veto in Security Council to reject proposal to treat costs of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus as expenses of Organization to be borne by Member States, with effect from 15 June, 1993.

+ At second meeting this evening, Council calls on Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its announcement to withdraw from Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

+ Secretary-General doubts validity of Bosnian Serbs referendum on Vance/Owen peace plan as United Nations does not recognize legitimacy of Bosnian Serb Republic or its Assembly.

+ Time to "change priorities" of UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina has passed, says Thorvald Stoltenberg, new Co-Chairman of Yugoslav Conference; United Nations Bosnian Ambassador suggests withdrawal of UNPROFOR for safety reasons and to allow for military action.

+ United States wants to rejoin United Nations Population Fund as leading contributor; is "deeply disturbed" however by coercive population programmes in China, Preparatory Committee for International Conference on Population and Development is told.

+ Wide range of human rights principles contained in draft final document to be considered at 1993 Human Rights Conference in Vienna this June; text adopted after three weeks of negotiations by Preparatory Committee in Geneva.

+ More than 1,000 polling officers to attend training session in Thailand for May 23 Cambodian elections; UNTAC reports widespread political violence in Cambodia in April.

+ UNHCR Sadako Ogata to sign agreement with Government of Bangladesh on repatriation of Myanmar refugees; potential refugees to be interviewed to ensure that repatriation is voluntary.

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+ Chief of United Nations Environment Programme says Agency should streamline activities, devoting resources to priority projects.

+ Special Committee on Israeli Practices is told of harsh measures used by Israeli authorities to repress opposition in occupied territories, during field mission to Damascus, Amman and Cairo.

+ Regional and global disarmament recommended as Disarmament Commission ends 1993 session.

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The Russian Federation today rejected a draft resolution under which the Security Council would have decided to treat the costs of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) as expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States, with effect from the next extension of the Force's mandate on or before 15 June, 1993. It did so by exercising its right, as a Permanent Member of the Council, to veto the text sponsored by the United Kingdom.

Under the draft, the Council would have decided that UNFICYP should be restructured as a first step on the basis of the Secretary-General's recommendations in his latest report on the question. The Council would also have decided to conduct a comprehensive reassessment of UNFICYP, its effect on confidence-building measures and a political settlement, additional to the regular six monthly consideration of the Force's mandate.

After the vote, the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Yuliy Vorontsov, explained that his country had voted against the text because Russia did not consider it timely to extend mandatory financing to UNFICYP which up to now had been entirely paid for on a voluntary basis. Voluntary financing for peace-keeping operations should not be rejected all together as an option, Mr. Vorontsov said. Russia had already been forced to agree with the shift to mandatory contributions of United Nations Member States for the operations in Somalia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Had the decision been adopted today, no peace-keeping operations would have been left paid for on a voluntary basis, the Russian Representative noted.

Other delegations deplored the Russian veto and stressed it created a dangereous precedent in the future.

The veto was last cast on 31 May, 1990, when the United States used its right under the United Nations Charter to reject a draft resolution which would have established a commission to examine the situation in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel.

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At a second meeting this evening, the Security Council called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to reconsider its announcement in March to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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(NPT) and to honour its obligations under that Treaty. It also called on the country to comply with its safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as specified by the resolution of the IAEA Board of Governors of 25 February.

The Council took that action by adopting resolution 826 (1993) by a vote of 13 in favour with two abstentions (China and Pakistan). It asked the Director-General of IAEA to continue to consult with the DPRK "with a view to resolving the issues which are the subject of the Board of Governors' findings". The Council urged all Member States to encourage the DPRK to respond positively to this resolution in order to facilitate a solution.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced on 12 March that it would withdraw "unavoidably" from the NPT, after IAEA asked the country to provide additional information concerning its nuclear programme and allow the international inspection of two military sites. The DPRK authorities argued that their decision to withdraw from the NPT was adopted as a measure to defend its "supreme" interest.

On 1 April, the IAEA Board of Governors reiterated in a resolution that the DPRK was in non-compliance with its obligations under the nuclear agreement, and that the IAEA had not been able to verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear materials required to be safeguarded under the agreement.

Before the vote, the Permanent Representative of the DPRK stressed that, as a sovereign State party to the Treaty, his country had the right to withdraw from the NPT. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea (ROK) stated that such a decision would be counter-productive to the continuation of a peaceful dialogue between the two Koreas.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed doubt at the validity of the Bosnian Serbs referendum on the Vance/Owen peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, given the war conditions and all the "ethnic cleansing" that has taken place, a United Nations spokesman said today. He noted that the United Nations did not recognize the legitimacy of the Bosnian Serb Republic or its Assembly in Pale, which had rejected the plan last week.

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The time to "change the priorities" of the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) had passed, Thorvald Stoltenberg, new Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, told a press conference in Geneva today. He made the statement in reply to a question about "the fact that the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina has called for the departure of UNPROFOR".

Mr. Stoltenberg, who succeeds Cyrus Vance, went on to say that he supported the Vance/Owen plan and hoped to achieve quick results. However, he

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said, he saw immense historic, ethnic and political problems involved in the conflict. An example of that was the recent flairing up of the conflict between the Bosnians and the Croats.

Mohamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, told correspondents this afternoon before Council's consultations on the subject that his Foreign Minister had urged the United Nations to withdraw UNPROFOR from his country, if its mandate could not be modified. He said that such action would improve the security of United Nations peace-keepers and allow for military action against the Bosnian Serbs.

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The United States wants to rejoin the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as a leading contributor, Timothy Ward, the country's representative to the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development said today. The United States was in the final stage of deliberations on the conditions and level of funding, he added. However, it was deeply disturbed by, and would not contribute to, coercive population programmes in China.

The 1994 Conference should produce a broad international commitment to population stabilization and to the right of women to family planning, Mr. Ward said. The United States would also like to see a real commitment to sustainable development and to the goals of Agenda 21, the programme of action from last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

During its two-week session, the Preparatory Committee is expected to agree on the final document to be adopted by the Conference, which will take place in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The aim of the Conference is to widen freedom of choice in such matters as family size, population policy and development practices. The overall theme, as defined by the Economic and Social Council, is population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

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The concept that democracy, development and respect for human rights are "interdependent and mutually reinforcing" is among the wide range of human rights principles contained in the draft final document which will be considered at the 1993 Human Rights Conference in Vienna this June. The draft was adopted in Geneva on Saturday, 8 May, after three weeks of negotiations by delegates in the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights.

The document states among other things that "it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms". It also reaffirms the rights of minorities and says that persons belonging to minorities have the "right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion and to use their own language in private and in public".

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The document also contains a draft programme of action in the years ahead which, among other things, urges Goverments and the United Nations to give priority to the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights.

The draft final document is closely based on regional declarations adopted earlier this year by preparatory meetings held in Tunis, San José and Bangkok, as well as contributions made by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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More than 1,000 polling officers from over 50 countries will gather in Thailand on 13 May to attend a 3-day training session for the forthcoming Cambodian elections, a United Nations spokesman said today. The officers will travel to Cambodia between 16 and 18 May to prepare for the 23 May elections.

In a related development, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said there had been widespread political violence in the country last month. UNTAC received reports of 44 attacks by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, which had resulted in 62 deaths, 137 injuries and 31 abductions. Attacks by unidentified groups had resulted in a further 20 deaths.

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata will sign a memorandum of understanding regarding the repatriation of refugees from Myanmar during a visit to Bangladesh from May 12 to 15, according to a UNHCR statement. Under the agreement with the Government of Bangladesh, the UNHCR will have a presence in camps housing 230,000 refugees, and will interview all potential returnees to ensure that repatriation is voluntary.

Mrs. Ogata will tour refugee camps and meet with Government officials in Dacca, the release said. The UNHCR is assisting Myanmar refugees in 20 camps under its care and maintenance programme, at a projected cost of $15 million in 1993.

More than 250,000 Muslim refugees from Myanmar fled to Bangladesh in early 1992, 22,500 of whom have returned. The UNHCR became involved in the repatriation process early this year after gaining access to potential refugees. The agency does not have a presence in Myanmar.

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The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has begun its seventeenth session at its headquarters in Nairobi. The session -- the first since last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) -- will last until 21 May.

UNEP's new Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell asked delegates to keep UNCED in their thoughts during the session, and said the Council could

put some of the Conference's plans, programmes and policies into action. She called on delegates to set clear priorities, to drop programmes that could not be implemented with the agreed funding, and to streamline the distribution of available resources.

Ms. Dowdeswell will make a major policy statement to the Council next Monday, when Government ministers from more than 40 countries are expected to attend. The Council meets every two years to address environmental policy issues, to review UNEP's performance, and to agree on a budget for the next biennium.

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The Israeli authorities were using harsh measures to repress opposition in the occupied territories, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs has been told during its two-week field mission to Damascus, Amman and Cairo.

There had been many civilian deaths, new methods of house demolition had been introduced and the climate of violence had been exacerbated by the deployment of special "undercover units", it was told. The Special Committee has consistently been denied access to the territories occupied by Israel and therefore relies on reports from the Israeli press, other media, including the Arab language press published in the occupied territories, as well as on evidence provided by persons with first-hand knowledge of the situation in the territories.

The Special Committee ended its mission on 8 May.

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The Disarmament Commission, ending its 1993 session today at Headquarters, has called for regional and global approaches to disarmament and recommended that the General Assembly adopt guidelines on such measures. The Commission also recommended that regional arrangements give priority to the elimination of destabilizing military capabilities, emphasizing that they must conform to the United Nations Charter and international law.

During the session, which began on 19 April, the Commission discussed nuclear disarmament in the context of international peace and security, regional approaches to disarmament, and the role of science and technology in international security and disarmament. However, agreement could not be reached on certain aspects of the role of science and technology for disarmament.

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1391
12 May 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after meeting with Secretary-General, says situation in Haiti is very promising for return to democracy; Middle East, Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina among issues discussed.

+ Secretary-General appoints Edouard Brunner of Switzerland as Special Envoy for Georgia for initial period of three months; Envoy will seek cease-fire agreement and assist negotiations for political solution to conflict in Abkhazia.

+ Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference, will travel to Moscow on Friday, 14 May, and to London on Monday, 17 May, for meeting with British Foreign Minister; Security Council Sanctions Committee extends deadline for humanitarian shipments to former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to 12 June.

+ Eugeniusz Wyzner appointed by Secretary-General as Commissioner-General for Taejon International Exposition in Republic of Korea.

+ ICRC resumes flights to southern Sudan after signing memorandum of understanding with Sudanese Government.

+ UNESCO aims at building "culture of peace" and working more closely with United Nations system, UNESCO Director-General tells Executive Board as it begins 141st session in Paris.

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The situation in Haiti is very promising for a return to democracy, with the cooperation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the de facto government, the army and the police, United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher told correspondents today after a meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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Mr. Christopher said he and the Secretary-General had had wide-ranging discussions on a number of topics, including the procedures needed to bring about, in an orderly and effective way, the restoration of democracy and the return of President Aristide to Haiti.

The Secretary-General, in a statement, thanked the United States Secretary of State for his close cooperation with the United Nations. The talks also dealt with the Middle East, Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, among other things.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Edouard Brunner of Switzerland as his Special Envoy for Georgia, for an initial period of three months, following the deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia. Mr. Brunner's tasks, based on the Moscow peace agreement of 3 September 1992, will be to obtain a cease-fire agreement and to assist negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict, with the support of neighbouring countries and others concerned, the Secretary-General said in a letter to the Security Council, dated 5 May.

The dispatch of a new visiting mission, which had originally been envisaged, would not be enough to revive the peace process, the Secretary-General said. He referred to a statement by the President of the Security Council on 29 January 1993, which had expressed grave concern regarding the situation in Abkhazia and had called on all parties to stop fighting immediately and to implement the Moscow agreement.

Ambassador Brunner, who planned to visit the region in the second half of May, would consult closely with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the letter said. He would report to the Secretary-General on the results achieved after three months, at which time a decision will be made on whether to extend his appointment.
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Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, will travel to Moscow on Friday, 14 May, according to a United Nations spokesman today. On Monday, 17 May, they would go to London for meetings with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd.

Before leaving for Moscow, Mr. Stoltenberg will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Thursday, 13 May.

Lord Owen met last night with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali for a general review of the situation in former Yugoslavia. This morning Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance had met with the Foreign Minister of Greece and the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, President Gligorov, on the question of that Republic. Those meetings would continue tomorrow.

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In a separate development, the Sanctions Committee established by Security Council resolution 724 (1991) today decided, among other things, that acknowledgements of shipments of humanitarian supplies - foodstuffs and medical supplies - to the former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) issued before 27 April, but not yet exercised, should remain in effect until 12 June 1993. Such shipments would have to be adequately monitored at border crossings with the former Yugoslavia on behalf of the Governments concerned and relevant Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMs) to ensure that the cargo corresponded to the items notified.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Eugeniusz Wyzner as United Nations Commissioner-General for the Taejon International Exposition in the Republic of Korea, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Wyzner will represent the Secretary-General and the United Nations system of agencies and programmes, some 22 of which have confirmed their participation in the Exposition.

In accordance with United Nations rules, all costs involved would be borne by the Republic of Korea as host country, and United Nations participation would be at no cost to the Organization, the spokesman said.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has resumed flights to southern Sudan after an interruption of more than a year, according to a communiqué issued by the Red Cross today. The resumption follows the signing on 21 March of a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Sudan which defines the scope of the ICRC's activities there.

An ICRC team flew into Juba on 10 and 11 May and started assessing the situation in camps for displaced people and in the town's hospitals and dispensaries, where medical supplies would be distributed, the communiqué said. Within weeks, the ICRC would carry out a detailed survey of 14 localities in Upper Nile and Equatoria provinces, which are controlled either by the Sudanese Government or by factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aimed at promoting intellectual cooperation, building a "culture of peace" and working more closely with the United Nations system, UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor told the Organization's Executive Board as it began its 141st session in Paris on Monday, 10 May.

In order to provide intellectual leadership, UNESCO had created an Ad Hoc Forum of Reflection, the World Commission on Culture and Development and the World Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century, Mr. Mayor said. In October, the Board had approved the Culture of Peace in El Salvador

(more)

programme, which would support democratization, training and teaching projects. UNESCO activities in Somalia, Mozambique, Slovenia and Croatia were mostly directed at peace-building through the education of children.

UNESCO's financial situation had improved in the first quarter of 1993, as it had received $30.7 million more it had spent, he noted. However, vacant posts could not be filled in order to make savings, which prevented continuity of personnel. That factor, combined with the limitations of the Working Capital Fund and the lack of a reserve fund, hindered the organization in carrying out its tasks.

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Oil spills and pollution from the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait affected the marine and coastal environment in the region, according to an updated scientific report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). While oil had decomposed relatively quickly in the sea, it had deeply penetrated sheltered sand beaches. Some coral reefs showed signs of distress, while fisheries had been adversely affected, the report said.

An effective international mechanism with a predetermined procedure for immediate action was needed to deal with large-scale environmental crises, UNEP said. Experience had shown that United Nations agencies could work together effectively if objectives were laid out, responsibilities were clearly defined, and a strategy for coordination and communication was implemented from the outset.

In responding to the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, 12 United Nations and international organizations had worked as one team, and that augured well for future emergency situations, according to the report.

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Corrections:

The resolution adopted yesterday by the Security Council calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was number 825 (1993).

The United States representative to the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development is Timothy E. Wirth. His name was misspelled in yesterday's highlights.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1392
13 May 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Tropical diseases, AIDS and diabetes among growing problems identified by World Health Organization's report; meanwhile, World Health Assembly, meeting in Geneva, calls for end to harmful health practices.

+ Stuctural adjustment policies of IMF and World Bank deprive African people of rights to dignified existence, African NGO representative tells planning Committee.

+ United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme seek to enhance cooperation.

+ UNEP Executive Director, warning that rhinoceroses could disappear, urges Governments to close illegal markets; growing rhinocerous populations in certain African countries following UNEP initiative.

* * *

Tropical diseases, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and diabetes were growing problems which left no room for complacency, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its report on the state of the world's health for 1985 to 1990 . Cholera had spread to the Americas for the first time this century, pulmonary tuberculosis was increasing -- stimulated by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) -- and there were more cancer cases in the developing world than in developed countries.

At the same time, childhood diseases such as measles and poliomyelitis had decreased due to better immunization programmes, and cardiovascular disease had waned in developed countries because of health education. The overall death rate was decreasing globally, while life expectancy was increasing, the report said. However, gains had been overshadowed by epidemics of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes in the poorest countries. Those diseases had previously afflicted mainly the industrialized countries.

Meanwhile, the World Health Assembly in Geneva has called for an end to such harmful traditional practices as child marriage, dietary limitations

(more)

For information media--not an official record

during pregnancy and female genital mutilation. Those practices prejudiced the health, development and human rights of all members of society, it said.

The Assembly also marked the fifth anniversary of the WHO's declaration to eradicate poliomyelitis by the year 2000. Some 81 per cent of the world's infants were being vaccinated against the disease, and not a single case resulting from the wild polio virus had been detected in the Western hemisphere in the last year. However, Bangladesh, China, India and Pakistan accounted for 71 per cent of reported cases of poliomyelitis in 1991, and reporting in much of Africa was considered unreliable.

* * *

The structural adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank deprived the African people of the rights to a dignified existence and should be completely restructured, Sekai Holland, representative of a group of African non-governmental organizations said today.

She told the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development this morning that such policies undermined family planning efforts through programmes which limited women's access to needed social services. She also called for actions to stem the epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases and to end the unethical dumping of toxic wastes on African lands.

Yesterday, speakers stressed the need to reduce high infant maternal mortality rates and to provide adequate family planning services. The connection between population and poverty alleviation was also emphasized.

On Tuesday, the representative of China told the Committee that excessive population growth was a grave problem in his country with a population expected to be 1.3 billion by the end of the century. In order to control that growth, China had to prmote family planning through strengthened public education and improved contraceptive services, he said.

The representative of the United States said Tuesday that his country was determined to help lead and be part of a renewed global effort to address population problems. His Government had lifted restrictions that prohibited some family planning organizations from receiving government funding because of abortion-related activities and intended to contribute to the United Nations Population Fund.

* * *

In an effort to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) after last June's World Summit on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, consultations were held at UNEP headquarters on 5 and 6 May between senior officials of the two organizations.

(more)

The meetings were part of a continuing relationship at all levels -- global, regional and national -- to identify obstacles, as well as opportunities for enhanced collaboration between the two organizations to carry out the objectives of the Rio Conference.

One of UNDP's immediate responses to that challenge has been its Capacity 21 initiative -- a programme to help developing countries strengthen their environmental decision-making and management.

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Rhinoceros populations in Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, peninsular Malaysia and India have grown since the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) started a new iniative in September 1992, according to a UNEP press release. Kenya's black rhino population had increased from around 340 in 1986 to 420 today, and not a single rhino had been poached in the country since September 1991.

Pressure by UNEP had led to the enforcement of bans on the sale of rhinocerous products in markets such as Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and China. China had banned the export of all medicines containing rhinoceros horn following a visit by UNEP's Special Envoy for rhinocerous conservation, Esmond Bradley Martin, the press release said. However, poaching had cut Zimbabwe's black rhino population from around 2,000 in 1989 to less than 400 today. In Nepal, at least 18 rhinos had been illegally killed between mid-1992 and early 1993.

UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell warned that rhinoceroses could disappear altogether, and urged Governments to close down illegal markets. UNEP's Special Envoy would visit southern Africa and eastern Asia for high-level consultations on conservation issues, and the Programme would hold a conference on conservation financing in Nairobi from 28 June to 1 July.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1393
14 May 1993

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council, deeply concerned about "persistent tension in Angola", expresses support for talks in Abidjan and hopes for successful outcome; Council President announces formal meeting at Foreign Ministers level on Friday, 21 May, on "aspects of peace-keeping operations".

+ Security Council conveys its indignation and grief at tragic death of Lieutenant Arturo Muñoz Castellanos, Spanish UNPROFOR peace-keeper serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ United Nations/OAS International Civilian Mission in Haiti and Haitian Armed Forces agree in principle on "mechanism" for investigation of grave human rights violations.

+ Secretary-General expresses full confidence in Special Representative for Angola Margaret Anstee; will soon decide on her request to be released from position; urges Angolan parties to cooperate in Côte d'Ivoire peace process.

+ Canada proposes creation of "international ad hoc war crimes tribunal", in addition to permanent body, to ensure swift prosecution in former Yugoslavia; international expert group meets in New York to study Secretary-General's recent proposal for statute for tribunal.

+ Information Committee discusses arrangements for coverage of United Nations; correspondents suggest designation of Security Council spokesman.

* * *

The Security Council, deeply concerned about "the persistent tension in Angola", has expressed its support for the talks in Abidjan and the hope that those negotiations would produce successful result in the nearest future.

In a statement read out by Council President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation) this evening, the Council also expressed its belief that it should remain seized with the situation in Angola and take further appropriate steps to support the peace process.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

In a separate development, Mr. Vorontsov informed correspondents that a meeting of the Council at the level of Foreign Ministers would be convened on Friday, 21 May. The meeting was being called to study all the aspects of the peace-keeping operations, including their financing.

* * *

The President of the Security Council, Yuliy Vorontsov, this evening conveyed the Council's indignation and grief at the tragic death of Lieutenant Arturo Muñoz Castellanos, a member of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Spanish battalion serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Vorontsov also expressed the Council's heartfelt condolences to the family of the soldier and the Spanish Government, whose troops had thus suffered their first casualty in the cause of United Nations peace-keeping.

The death had brought to 41 the number of fatalities suffered by UNPROFOR in the last twelve months -- an unacceptable number, the statement said.

* * *

The International Civilian Mission in Haiti and the Haitian Armed Forces have agreed on the principle of establishing "a mechanism" for the investigation of human rights violations, according to a press release issued today by the Mission, a joint undertaking by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). The mechanism would allow the Mission to submit urgent and grave cases of violations to the Armed Forces, which would announce the results of its own investigations.

The agreement was reached when a Mission delegation led by Executive Director Colin Granderson met with the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Raoul Cedras, and the entire High Command, the press release said. The delegation expressed concern about reported human rights violations, disappearances of political opponents and deaths in detention, and protested against the intimidation of international observers.

The Mission would support Haitian initiatives to provide legal assistance for the victims of human rights violations, and welcomed a statement by General Cedras favouring measures to give the most deprived people access to justice, according to the press release.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed full confidence in Margaret J. Anstee, his Special Representative for Angola, and will soon decide on her request to be released from her responsibilities, a United Nations spokesman said today.

In the meantime, Miss Anstee's deep knowledge of the Angolan situation and her competence were valuable assets in the crucial phase of the ongoing peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, according to the spokesman. The

(more)

Secretary-General expressed the hope that the parties would reach an agreement without delay, and urged them to cooperate fully with his Special Representative.

* * *

Canada has proposed the creation of an "international ad hoc war crimes tribunal", in addition to a permanent international criminal court, to ensure that those guilty of atrocities in the conflict in former Yugoslavia will swiftly be brought to justice.

According to a letter to the Secretary-General from the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Barbara McDougal, dated 11 May, such an ad hoc mechanism was discussed at a recent international meeting of experts in Vancouver. To head the tribunal as Cheif Prosecutor, she offered the name of C.A. Amerasinghe, Senior General Council for the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section. She also offered the service of a team of lawyers and investigators from the Canadian Department of Justice and Department of National Defence in order to ensure the "smooth operation" of the tribunal.

Mr. McDougal asked that $300,000 recently contributed by Canada to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Commission of Experts on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia be used for an examination of evidence of systematic sexual assaults and mass killings.

Meanwhile, a group of international law experts met yesterday at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York to examine Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's recent proposal for a statute for an international war crimes tribunal to prosecute atrocities in former Yugoslavia. The United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said the discussions with the experts showed that international law was "up to the challenge" and that, while there might be ways to improve the Secretary-General's draft, experts supported the prompt and orderly creation of the statute for the tribunal.

* * *

The President of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) has called for the designation of a spokesman for the Security Council since that body dominated the work of journalists covering Headquarters. He also called for more access to interviews with United Nations officials, especially the Secretary-General. Speaking at the Information committee's meeting this morning, UNCA President, Behzat Baris, said there had not been adequate discussions between the Department of Public Information (DPI) and UNCA prior to last year's renovation of the press area.

A representative of the International Organization of Journalists, stating that in the past two years more journalists had been persecuted than ever before, called for the organization of a world forum to discuss the problem and develop methods to defend journalists from attacks.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1394
17 May 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, concerned at reports of renewed fighting in Kabul, urges all parties to refrain from any further use of force and to continue searching for political solution.

+ International Polling Station Officers arrive in Cambodia for 23 May elections after training in Thailand; dependents of United Nations staff instructed to leave Phnom Penh for security reasons; Uruguayan UNTAC marine shot dead in city.

+ Croatian Government and local Serb authorities to meet tomorrow at Topusko, in Sector North, to "sign immediate interim cease-fire", according to UNPROFOR.

+ Kuwait contributes $20 million to escrow account established by Security Council after Persian Gulf war to pay for damages, humanitarian activities and other costs.

+ International Fund for Agricultural Development lends Viet Nam $18.35 million -- country's first multilateral financial assistance in more than two decades.

+ Trusteeship Council to send mission to observe further plebiscite to territory of Palau, scheduled for 27 July 1993.

+ Foreign direct investment by transnational corporations from developing countries boosts exports and access to technology, according to study by Department of Economic and Social Development.

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Concerned at reports of renewed fighting in Kabul, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today urged all parties to refrain from any further use of force and to continue searching for non-violent ways to implement their commitment to find a political solution.

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For information media—not an official record

In a statement issued at Headquarters, he expressed dismay over the recent escalation of fighting in and around the Afghan capital, and, in particular, by the "indiscriminate rocket attacks" which have resulted in heavy casualties among the civilian population.

Since the signing of the Geneva Accords in April 1988, the United Nations has encouraged a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan that would respect "the will of all the Afghan people". After the 1990 Soviet withdrawal from the country, consensus seemed to have emerged to convene a gathering of Afghans in order to reach agreement on a transitional period leading to the establishment of a broad-based Government through free and fair elections. However, in August 1992, four months after the establishment of the Mujahidin Interim Council in Kabul, fighting erupted between the various groups. In spite of several appeals by the Secretary-General and the Security Council to end the fighting, the political instability continues. In addition, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated with the recent influx of more than one million refugees from neighbouring countries to a country devastated by 15 years of war.

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Nine hundred and fifty International Polling Station Officers from 43 countries and various United Nations agencies have begun arriving in Cambodia in preparation for the 23 May elections, according to a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The Officers had been training in Jomtien, Thailand.

The spokesman confirmed that dependents of 220 United Nations agency staff in Phnom Penh had been instructed from New York to leave Cambodia. The decision had been based on security considerations and the belief that people affiliated with United Nations staff but not working in the country should not be exposed to avoidable risks.

In a separate development, a member of the Uruguayan UNTAC marine contingent in Cambodia died Saturday at the UNTAC Field Hospital in Phnom Penh after having being shot, the spokesman said. The 34 year-old Corporal Sergeant, Daniel Bustamente Rios, had been wearing civilian clothes when he was shot. The incident was being investigated.

Meanwhile, 380 Cambodians on a walk for peace -- the Dhamma Yatra -- were scheduled to arrive in Phnom Penh on 22 May. The walkers, which included monks, nuns and lay people, had set out from Siem Reap at the beginning of May and had passed the most difficult part of the journey -- from Siem Reap to Kompong Thom -- without any problems. Thousands of Cambodians had shown up along the roadside to offer them food, shelter and encouragement.

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The Croatian Government and local Serb authorities will meet face-to-face tomorrow at Topusko, in Sector North, to "sign an immediate interim cease-fire", according to a press release issued by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), yesterday, 16 May.

The meeting, which is the first between the parties since the outbreak of hostilities on 22 January, will be held under the auspices of UNPROFOR and will be chaired by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Cedric Thornberry. An agreement was worked out by the two sides on 6 April in Geneva under the auspices of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, to set a timetable for the peace process.

The final signing of the cease-fire agreement will enable the implementation of resolution 802 (1993) which called for immediate withdrawal from the United Nations Protected Areas and demanded that the Serb local militia hand over their heavy weapons to UNPROFOR. The extension of the mandate of UNPROFOR in Croatia is pending the cease-fire agreement.

* * *

Kuwait has contributed $20 million to the escrow account created by the Security Council after the Persian Gulf war to pay for damages, humanitarian activities and other costs in connection with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The escrow account, which was created under resolution 706 (1991), is made up of funds from revenues of sale of Iraqi oil, among other things.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 13 May, the Kuwaiti Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, asked that 30 per cent of the contribution be earmarked to the Compensation Fund. That Fund was established by the Council to pay for damages suffered by individuals or States as a result of the Iraqi invasion in August 1990.

The letter also asked that the remainder of the contribution be made available for the United Nations Boundary Commission, costs of the return of Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq and humanitarian activities in Iraq.
S/25750

* * *

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) today agreed to lend Viet Nam $18.35 million -- the country's first multilateral financial assistance in more than two decades, according to an IFAD press release. The highly concessional loan would support a new resource management project in the province of Tuyen Quang.

The project, which would be implemented over seven years starting in June, aims to help the rural poor to manage their natural resources and rural infrastructure in order to increase agricultural production and raise incomes. It also aims at increasing reliance on the free market for the distribution of goods and services.

(more)

Viet Nam decided to abandon its centrally-planned policies in 1986, giving way to market forces in order to stimulate its economy, IFAD said. However, economic recovery was obstructed by inflation, an unwieldy bureaucracy and the collapse of the Soviet Union, its main source of aid and biggest trading partner.

* * *

The Trusteeship Council has decided to send a visiting mission to Palau to observe an report on the plebiscite scheduled for 27 July 1993 on the compact of Free Association with the United States.

In a draft resolution adopted without a vote, the Council would have the mission dispatched on the understanding that pending legal challenges relating to the plebiscite were adjudicated definitively beforehand.

In Palau, seven earlier plebiscites failed to achieve the constitutionally mandated 75 per cent vote needed to approve the proposed Compact of Free Association.

* * *

The Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) has released a study, "Transnational Corporations from Developing Countries: Impact on Their Home Countries".

The study notes that the stock of foreign direct investment from developing countries had reached almost $110 billion by the end of the 1980s, or 8 per cent of the world's outward foreign direct investment. It concluded that such investment by transnational corporations benefitted their home countries by stimulating exports and by tapping into technological developments in host countries.

Profitability could be increased as a result of greater corporate integration, diversification of portfolios, spreading of costs and reduction of tax liabilities, the study said. Although transnational corporations tried to minimize tax burdens, outward foreign direct investment generated income, trade and employment, and thus raised government revenues.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1395
18 May 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council meeting at Foreign Ministers level postponed indefinitely pending outcome of consultations on former Yugoslavia; Council President says meeting still expected to convene; Council action on war crimes tribunal expected this week.

+ It is the will and intent of the Security Council and most Cambodians that the election be held as scheduled, and "I have directed that this should be done ", Secretary-General says in new report; warns that election, beginning Sunday, might be marred by "continuing violence" although UNTAC has done everything possible to ensure maximum security.

+ Need for programmes to enable young people to make informed choices in sexual and related matters, stressed in planning Committee for 1994 Population and Development Conference.

+ Problems of land-locked and transit developing countries discussed with donor countries for first time at three-day meeting at Headquarters.

* * *

The meeting of the Security Council at the level of Foreign Ministers, which had been scheduled for Friday, 21 May, has been postponed, according to a statement read out today by Council President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation). At present, he said, intensive consultations were taking place between Foreign Ministers of several Member States of the Security Council on various aspects of the conflict in former Yugoslavia. A definite date for the meeting would be set later pending those discussions, he said.

Speaking later with correspondents, Mr. Vorontsov stressed that the meeting was "very much on". Asked how many countries had been "against" the meeting as originally scheduled, he replied "more than two".

Muhamed Sacirbey, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, warned against creating safe havens in Bosnia and Herzegovina "without any vision of how to fully implement the Vance/Owen plan". That would "not do much more than create ethnic ghettos", he said. He

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For information media--not an official record

said he would ask for comprehensive measures, not "piecemeal measures", which would only institutionalize and prolong the agony of the Bosnian people.

The United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay, told correspondents that there appeared to be very firm agreement among all Members of the Council that a decision should be reached this week on setting up a war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

* * *

It is clear that it is the will and intent of the Security Council and of the vast majority of the Cambodian people that the election be held as scheduled. With this in view, "I have directed that this should be done", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says in a new report to the Security Council, dated 15 May.

The Secretary-General warns however that the elections in Cambodia beginning this Sunday are "likely to be affected by continuing violence", although everything possible has been done by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to ensure the maximum security. The UNTAC would therefore be conducting "the most impartial election that is possible in conditions that are not susceptible to its full control", he wrote.

The Secretary-General also expresses concern at the fact that incidents of violence could have a disruptive effect through their "destabilizing psychological effects". Since the inception of UNTAC, 13 civilian and military personnel had lost their lives, and 52 had been wounded as a result of hostile action. In the last two months, 110 Cambodians, including those of Vietnamese descent, had died as victims of violence and some 180 had been injured.

In order to avoid violence, the report said, the number of polling sites had been reduced from 102 to 51. No polling would be conducted in the areas controlled by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK), where UNTAC was not allowed access anyway, as well as areas in which the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) had been operating.

The Secretary-General's report has been submitted in response to the Security Council's resolution 810 of 3 March, 1993, which called on UNTAC to continue efforts to create a neutral political environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections, and asked the Secretary-General to report by mid-May. (S/25784)

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There was a fundamental need to ensure the availability of reproductive health systems, education and counselling, to enable adolescents to make informed personal choices in sexual and health-related matters, the planning Committee for the 1993 Population and Development Conference was told this morning.

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Addressing the Committee, Mette Knudsen, the representative of Denmark, said that worldwide, some 500,000 women died annually as a result of childbirth-related causes, the majority in developing countries. Many of those deaths were the result of illegal and unsafe abortions. Ms. Knudsen also stressed the need to address the question of adolescent pregnancy. Adolescents were also at risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), she said.

Yesterday, the representative of the Holy See, Renato R. Martino, said the statement of the 1984 International Population Conference discounting the importance of abortion as a family planning tool should be retained and emphasized. That Conference had stated that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning, he noted.

The Committee is currently considering the proposed framework for the final document for the Conference, which will take place in Cairo from 6 to 13 September 1994. It will end its session on Friday, 21 May.

* * *

The problems of land-locked and transit developing countries are being discussed during a three-day meeting, which began yesterday at Headquarters under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This marks the first time that these countries are meeting in a global forum with donor countries and institutions to discuss cooperative arrangements to improve their conditions.

In an opening statement, Yves Berthelot, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, called on the donor community to give more support to programmes to improve transit facilities and services.

Delegates are examining an UNCTAD report entitled "Transit systems for land-locked developing countries: current situations and proposals for future action". It says that financial aid from donor countries and technical assistance by various agencies have played a key role in developing road and rail infrastructures.

There are currently 28 land-locked developing countries, including seven newly independent States which were formerly part of the Soviet Union. Most of those countries are very poor -- 16 are classified by the United Nations as least developed.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1396
19 May 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says he cannot recommend "at this moment" that Security Council renew UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia; awaits report from Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of Yugoslav Conference, who will be visiting the region.

+ Recent hostilities between Bosnian Croats and Government forces in central Bosnia and Herzegovina involve "massive and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law", says new report by Special Rapporteur of Commission on Human Rights.

+ UNDP's Human Development Report 1993 proposes economic security council to tackle long-term development issues; stresses participation by people in society; deals with changing concept of security.

+ UNTAC deploys 1,400 International Polling Station Officers in Cambodia for elections beginning coming Sunday; number of polling sites cut in half because of security risks; UNTAC standing firm, spokesman says.

+ Secretary-General, in message to Hague Conference on Private International Law, cites proposed war crimes tribunal for serious violations of international humanitarian law.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1995 Conference on Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons decides to hold Conference in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995; schedules three more preparatory sessions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that "it would not be advisable" for him at the moment to make recommendations on the future mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia, which expires at the end of June. He is awaiting the report of Thorvald Stoltenberg, his Special Envoy, who will be visiting the region. Mr. Stoltenberg, who

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For information media--not an official record

succeeded Cyrus Vance, shares the Chairmanship of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia with Lord Owen, the European Community negotiator.

The UNPROFOR was established by the Security Council in February 1992 for one year to oversee the return of the Serb-controlled "pink zones" to Croatian authority. Its mandate has been extended twice on an interim basis pending a cease-fire agreement between the two sides.

In his report to the Council, dated 15 May, the Secretary-General said there were three options for UNPROFOR's future mandate in Croatia, none of which were feasible given the highly volatile situation not only in Croatia, but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first option, to withdraw UNPROFOR from the region, "would almost certainly lead to resumption of hostilities", he said. The second option, to expand UNPROFOR considerably in order to give it powers to oblige the Serbs to comply with the Security Council's demands, as the Croats have suggested, "would be tantamount to putting UNRPOFOR at war with the Serbs" in the United Nations Protected Areas and in the "Pink Zones", he said. The third option, to leave UNPROFOR in place with no change in mandate, would need the Croatian Government's permission to delay restoration of Croatian authority in the United Nations Protected Areas.

The report also asked that the Security Council consider a reinforcement of UNPROFOR to monitor the cease-fire between the two parties when it comes into force. Such a reinforcement would include an additional 1800 personnel for UNPROFOR's military forces and police; two engineer companies of some 300 personnel; and 50 United Nations military observers. In the meantime, the report asks the Council to approve an unrelated strengthening of the French battalion in Sarajevo by a further 150 soldiers.

On the financing of UNPROFOR, the Secretary-General expressed his grave concern about the failure of Member States to pay their assessments to the Force in full and on time. As a result, one State had announced its intention to leave the UNPROFOR, he said.

In a related development, the Croatian Government and local Serb authorities met yesterday under United Nations auspices at Topusco, in Sector North, to sign an immediate interim cease-fire.

In other news today, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon on three separate issues: Cambodia, the deployment of observers on the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the establishment of a war crimes tribunal to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations in former Yugoslavia.
S/25777

* * *

The recent eruption of hostilities between Bosnian Croat and Government forces in central Bosnia and Herzegovina involved "massive and systematic

(more)

violations of human rights and international humanitarian law", says a new report issued today in Geneva by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

Bosnian Croat forces were conducting "deliberate and systematic ethnic cleansing", including the forced displacement and detention of civilians, arbitrary executions as well as the destruction of villages and religious sites, the report said. The fate of the civilian population of Ahmici was a particularly "shocking" application of that policy.

The peace plan, according to which Bosnia and Herzegovina would be divided into ethnic provinces, had been used in order to create ethnically homogenous areas, the report noted. The lack of international response to counter the policy of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Serb forces from the begining of the war, "created the precedent of impunity which has allowed them to continue and which has encouraged the Croat forces to adopt the same policy", the report concluded.

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The Human Development Report 1993 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), proposes that an economic security council be created to tackle long-term development issues, according to Mahbub ul Haq, Special Adviser to the Administrator of the UNDP and the Report's chief architect. The council would act on such issues as poverty alleviation, drugs, the plight of refugees and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The Human Development Report, a series begun in 1990, had had a major impact on international dialogue and policy-making, with 24 countries now devising human development strategies, Mr. Haq told correspondents. The central theme of this year's Report was participation by people in their societies.

The Report dealt with the exclusion of ethnic minorities -- despite affirmative action measures -- and the profound disparities between men and womem, the Special Adviser said. The Human Development Report 1995 would be devoted exclusively to women in development because that would be the year of the World Conference on Women in Beijing.

This year's Report focused on the fact that people were not fully participating in markets; national output was increasing but jobs were decreasing, largely as a result of automation, he continued. There was also insufficient participation in Government. Many developing countries were overcentralized and political and economic power was wielded by small elites.

The Report also found that the concept of security had changed. The issue was no longer conflicts between nations, but conflicts between peoples. Security was no longer a matter of armaments, but of food, jobs and the environment, Mr. Haq went on to say. The thrust of the Report was that

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prevention was better than cure. The World Summit for Social Development in 1995 should strengthen the role of the United Nations in the socio-economic field, with a stronger mandate for economic development.

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A total of 1,400 International Polling Station Officers have been deployed throughout Cambodia after attending training courses in preparation for the elections beginning this Sunday, according to a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Meanwhile, the number of polling sites in the country had been reduced because of security risks in certain provinces. The polling plan would continue to be revised in light of the security situation, the spokesman said. There would be 2,200 Civilian Police monitors participating in the polling, and the Military Component would also provide security around the sites. In addition, 38 members of the diplomatic corps in Phnom Penh and nine individuals from international organizations had been accredited as election observers as of 13 May.

The military situation was currently quiet but tense in most parts of the country, according to the spokesman. Anxiety had been bred by rumors and exaggerated reports of fighting. However, UNTAC was standing firm. "We are ready", he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to The Hague Conference on Private International Law on its one hundredth anniversary, said enhancing respect for international law was essential for international peace, cooperation and security.

The Secretary-General recalled that the General Assembly had declared the 1990s to be the Decade of International Law. The Decade aims to promote respect for the principles of international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, and the development and teaching of international law. The Hague Conference had made many contributions in the field of private international law.

The importance of the procedures governing the conduct of nations had been brought home by the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, the wars in parts of the former Soviet Union and the atrocities committed in the former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General said. He noted that for the first time in history, the international community, through the Security Council, had decided that an international war crimes tribunal should be established to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), concluding its first

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session at Headquarters last week, decided that the Conference should be held in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995.

To continue preparing for the Conference, the Preparatory Committee scheduled three more sessions: 17 to 21 January 1994 in New York; 12 to 16 September 1994 in Geneva; and 23 to 27 January 1995 in New York.

During the session, the Preparatory Committee considered organizational and procedural matters and heard statements on substantive issues relating to the NPT and the 1995 Conference. The Committee also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate a provisional Secretary-General of the Conference. Of the 157 States parties to the NPT, 128 participated in the session.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1397
20 May 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns all violent acts committed on political and ethnic grounds, intimidation and attack on UNTAC personnel; warns that it will "respond appropriately" should any of the parties fail to comply with results of election; Secretary-General's Special Representative says election will be "one of freest and fairest elections in region".

+ Secretary-General proposes budget of $31.2 million for international war crimes tribunal to prosecute those responsible for violations of humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia.

+ Contribution of Ukrainian and Belorussian troops to peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia discussed by two Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference in Minsk and Kiev; Thorvald Stoltenberg to visit UNPROFOR's Headquarters in Zagreb next week.

+ Recent violent incidents in occupied territories deplored by Secretary-General; appeals for restraint and more international economic assistance.

+ United Nations, for first time, demarcates boundary between two States for international peace and security, Secretary-General tells Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission; calls on Iraq to respect results; WFP says food supply situation in northern Iraq is critical.

+ Uganda says it has no objections to deployment of United Nations observers on its side of border with Rwanda to monitor conflict between the Rwandese Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front.

+ No consensus reached on theme for Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations, as planning committee continues discussions.

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Expressing its strong support for the almost five million Cambodians who have registered to vote in the election beginning Sunday, the Security Council

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For information media--not an official record

today deplored all acts of non-cooperation with the 1990 Paris Agreements and condemned all violent acts committed on political and ethnic grounds, intimidation and attack on UNTAC personnel. The Council, reminding the Cambodian parties of their obligation under the Agreements fully to comply with the results of the election, warned that it would "respond appropriately" should any of the parties fail to honour its obligations.

The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 826 (1993) under which it expressed its full support for the measures taken by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to protect the safety of UNTAC personnel and underlined the need for UNTAC to continue those efforts. It demanded that all parties take all actions necessary to safeguard to lives and the security of UNTAC personnel throughout Cambodia and desist from any threats or intimidation.

The Council reaffirmed its readiness to support fully the constituent assembly; the process of drawing up a constitution and establishing a new government for all Cambodia; and to support subsequent efforts to promote national reconciliation and peace-building.

Meanwhile, Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia said today that the political campaign for the Cambodian election from 23 to 28 May had been a "great success". The election would be "one of the freest and fairest elections the region has seen", he said. More than 1,500 meetings and rallies had been held -- attended by a total of 800,000 people -- without a single major violent incident. Cambodians knew and understood that the vote would be secret, he told today's working session of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC).

The election might not meet the highest standards of the more mature democracies in every respect, but those countries themselves did not always meet those standards, Mr. Akashi said. However, the technical conduct of the election would be of the highest standard, thanks to the Electoral Component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), and the presence of party agents, international observers and the media.

Cambodians would vote "in their millions", and UNTAC had taken stringent measures for the safety and security of the election, the Special Representative stressed. UNTAC's mandate was restricted to self-defense, but UNTAC troops did not hesitate to return fire if attacked. "We shall be equally vigorous in defense of the Cambodian elections", he said.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents that UNTAC was making a major effort to go where the voters were, and that there would be voting in all 21 Provinces, and in all but one district. No registered voter would have to travel more than 15 kilometers to reach a polling site, he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed a budget of $31.2 million for the international war crimes tribunal to be set up to prosecute those responsible for the violations of humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia.

That would cover staff of 373, plus 11 judges and related operating cost, according to an addendum to his report of 3 May containing recommendations on the establishment of the tribunal. Not included in the budget were the possible rental of premises, detention facilities before and during the trial, imprisonment and other costs which might arise in the course of establishing the tribunal, the addendum said.

The tribunal proposed by the Secretary-General would be created on the basis of a Security Council resolution under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which concerns "action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression". The tribunal would deal with grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws and customs of war, genocide and crimes against humanity and would thus cover "ethnic cl ansing" and rape.

The Secretary-General was invited by Security Council resolution 808 of 22 February, 1993, to put forward his proposals for the "effective and expeditious" creation of a war crimes tribunal.

A five-member Expert Commission set up by the Council has been working since last October to examine and analyze information received from Member States on grave breaches of the Geneva Convention.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, today held meetings in Belarus and Ukraine to discuss possible troop contributions to United Nations forces in the former Yugoslavia. The talks followed discussions yesterday in Naples between the Co-Chairmen and senior officers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), during which the importance of a balanced force, including more Eastern European troops, was stressed.

In a press release issued today at Headquarters, the Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen said that in the Belarus capital of Minsk, the country's political leaders reacted favourably to the proposal to contribute Belarussian civilians to a United Nations Mission to monitor the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The subject of sending Belarus troops abroad - currently prohibited under the national legislation - would be raised immediately in the Parliament in order to allow Belarussian soldiers to participate in the peace-keeping operations in Bosnia, he said.

In Kiev, the Co-Chairmen expressed their gratitude to the Ukrainian political leaders for their country's current participation in the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia. President Kravchuk also informed the Co-Chairmen that Ukraine was considering contributing a second battalion to the United Nations force in the former Yugoslavia.

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Following today's meetings, Lord Owen was scheduled to return to London, while Mr. Stoltenberg was to travel to Oslo. Early next week, the latter plans to go to the Headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Zagreb, in connection with his new responsibilities as Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored the "substantial increase" in violent incidents during recent weeks in which a number of Palestinians and Israelis were killed and wounded in the occupied territories. He appealed to all sides for restraint and to avoid steps that would aggravate the situation, according to a statement issued at Headquarters.

At the same time, the Secretary-General was concerned at the sharp deterioration of the economic situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, resulting from the Israeli decision at the end of March 1993 to close off the territories. He appealed to the international community for greater economic assistance to the occupied territories and reminded the major donors of the critical financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

* * *

The United Nations has for the first time in history demarcated the boundary between two Member States in the context of maintaining international peace and security, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today in a statement to the final session of the the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission. Law, technology, diplomacy and security had come together in a unique United Nations endeavour, he told the Commission.

The Secretary-General called on the Government of Iraq to respect the Commission's decisions concerning the demarcation, stressing that they were final. He expressed regret that the Iraqi representative, who had participated in the land demarcation, did not attend meetings related to the demarcation of the off-shore boundary.

The Secretary-General said he was helping the parties to settle some practical problems resulting from the demarcation, and those steps would contribute to stabilizing the security situation in the area. He went on to say that he would bring the Commission's report to the attention of the Security Council, noting that the Council, in resolution 687 (1991), had guaranteed the inviolability of the boundary.

In a press communiqué issued earlier today, the Commission said the physical representation of the boundry between Iraq and Kuwait had been completed, with 106 pillars and 28 intermediate markers demarcating the land boundry, and coordinates demarcating the low-water line between the two countries.

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The Commission also noted that it had not reallocated territory between Kuwait and Iraq, but had carried out the technical task necessary to demarcate, for the first time, the coordinates of the boundry reaffirmed in the 1963 Agreed Minutes signed by both countries.

In a separate development, the World Food Programme (WFP) today warned that emergency food aid for northern Iraq would run out in 10 days, putting at risk more than one million people. The food supply situation in the country as a whole was critical, with almost two million people needing assistance, warned the WFP.

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Uganda has said that it had no objections to the deployment of United Nations observers on its side of the border with Rwanda to monitor the the conflict between the Rwandese Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). Furthermore, Uganda would not insist on the simultaneous deployment of United Nations peace-keepers inside Rwanda and the stationing of observers on its side of the common border, the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, Perezi K. Kamunanwire, said in a letter to the Security Council, dated 18 May.

The Council, in resolution 812 of 12 March 1993, had asked the Secretary-General to examine a request for the deployment of United Nations observers along the border between Rwanda and Uganda, in consultations with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It had also asked him to consider the establishment of an international force, under the aegis of the United Nations and the OAU, to protect the civilian population.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations today failed to achieve consensus on a theme for the celebration. However, there is agreement among Committee members that the question must be urgently resolved.

The Committee has had two proposals under consideration in ongoing informal consultations: the original theme proposed by the Secretary-General of "We the Peoples"; and an expanded version of that proposal, "We the peoples for peace, justice, equality and development".

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Information and Public Policy, Ms. Gillian Sorensen, addressing the Committee for the first time since her appointment, said that celebrating the anniversary would be an opportunity to create an activity that was truly global in scope.

The Committee will meet next on 8 June.

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Correction:

In Wednesday Highlights, 19 May, 1993, the second sentence of the headline on Cambodian situation should have read:

"Number of polling sites cut in half in Kompong Thom Province, from 102 to 51, because of security risks".

(There are currently 1561 polling stations in Cambodia, according to estimates. The original number was 1800, according to a United Nations spokesman today.)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1398
21 May 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations agencies, to prevent Angola's "forgotten tragedy", appeal for $226 million for emergency humanitarian aid through April 1994; donors' meeting scheduled for 3 June.

+ Secretary-General says work of Informal Open-Ended Working Group on "An Agenda for Peace" is critical to future of peace-keeping; stresses that peace-keeping is "excellent value for money"; General Assembly President also makes statement.

+ France proposes that UNPROFOR be authorized to use military force to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance and prevent all acts of aggression in six Bosnian towns declared "safe areas".

+ United Nations establishes Trust Fund for Implementation of the Peace Process in Mozambique; Status of Forces Agreement reached between United Nations and Mozambique, according to Spokesman.

+ Monaco and Eritrea ask for admission to membership in United Nations; Security Council to hold consultations on both countries' requests on Monday, 24 May.

+ About $6.18 million needed for 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, Secretary-General of Conference tells planning Committee.

+ United Nations team investigating Iraq's ballistic missile programmes returns to Headquarters with information deemed useful for future monitoring and verification activities.

+ Secretary-General appoints Charles Joseph Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada, as Special Representative for Cyprus; Mr. Clark to participate in Cyprus talks at Headquarters next week.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ Paris assistance seminar revealed threshold reached in Palestinian question, Chairman tells Palestinian Rights Committee.

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The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) today issued an appeal for $226 million for emergency humanitarian assistance for Angola. By issuing the appeal now, the DHA said the United Nations intended to prevent Angola's "forgotten tragedy" from being addressed only when images of helpless, starving mothers and children appear on the television screens worldwide.

In September of last year, Angola was a country of hope, conducting the first democratic elections in its history, said the text of the appeal. After sixteen years of bitter warfare and economic stagnation, there was reason to expect that reconciliation between two parties would permit growth and development. But Angola's reality today was one of devastation following the outbreak of hostilities some seven months ago, the appeal said. The level of fighting and human suffering now exceeded "anything seen in the previous sixteen years".

An international donors' meeting will be convened in Geneva on 3 June by Margaret J. Anstee, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola, to generate immediate support for life-sustaining activities such as provision of food aid, seeds and tools; vaccinations; safe water supply and sanitation, and shelter for displaced persons.

The appeal for Angola was prepared by an inter-agency mission consisting of United Nations relief organizations, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, organized by DHA. Its programmes target a vulnerable population of some 2 million Angolans whose lives have been severely disrupted by civil confli t and drought.

Relief activities will depend on a cease-fire which is one of the main objectives of the Angolan peace talks currently under way in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today told the Informal Open-Ended Working Group on his "An Agenda for Peace" that its work was critical to the future success of peace-keeping. He said in a statement that Member States wanted the United Nations to respond to signs of potential conflict, and he invited them to provide information which might help prevent conflict.

The Secretary-General said he was rationalizing information systems in the Secretariat to take account of the multi-dimensional roots of conflict. Humanitarian assistance was closely tied to preventive diplomacy and the maintenance of peace, and cooperation between United Nations organizations and agencies was being strengthened. Peace-keeping was rapidly evolving as the

(more)

Organization took on more complex tasks, he continued. A military planning cell had been formed at Headquarters and a situation room had been created to maintain links with operations in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia.

The special economic problems of States resulting from sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter deserved urgent attention, and permanent structures might be needed to deal with them, the statement said. A permanent mechanism for consultations between the Council, the Secretary-General, international financial institutions and Member States might be established.

The Secretary-General stressed that peace-keeping was "excellent value for money", and welcomed the General Assembly's decision to authorize a Peace-keeping Reserve Fund of $150 million. He noted, however, that only $64 million had been transferred to the Fund to date.

Also addressing the working group, General Assembly President Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria said the United Nations preventive mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was an example of the ideas in the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" being put into practice.

Mr. Ganev went on to say that he had invited all Member States to attend an informal open-ended ad hoc working group he would convene next Wednesday. He said he would present for consideration two draft resolutions on the rationalization of the General Assembly's committee structure and on the rationalization of its agenda.

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France has proposed that the Security Council draft a new resolution on the role of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the six Bosnian towns declared "safe areas" under resolution 824 (1993), according to a French memorandum, dated 19 May. The new resolution would authorize UNPROFOR to use military force to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance and prevent all acts of aggression, France said. The aim would be to stop territorial gains by the Serbian forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to achieve a negotiated settlement by the parties concerned.

The memorandum presented three options for deployment of which two were "light options" to establish a symbolic United Nations presence. Under the third option UNPROFOR would be strengthened with 15,000 to 20,000 men for Sarajevo and 5,000 for each of the other four areas. France also proposed to create a intervention unit as well as the use of airpower in order to enable the confrontation of potential major aggression.

The memorandum was transmitted in a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 19 May, signed by Jean-Bernard Mérimée, the French Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

In a separate development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has argued that the Security Council has no mandate to establish an international war crimes tribunal under the United Nations Charter. It

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would be "legally unfounded and arbitrary" since no independent tribunal can be a "subsidiary organ of any body, including the Security Council", the country said in a letter to the Secretary-General. [According to Article 29, the Council may establish subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.]

The Federal Republic also expressed doubts about the "impartiality" of such a war crimes tribunal "because of the one-sided approach of the United Nations Security Council". Besides, it said, reports of various international commissions investigating war crimes were "biased and unsubstantiated".

The letter was from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and dated 17 May.

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The United Nations has established a Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Peace Process in Mozambique. The Fund is earmarked to cover costs associated with requirements for, among others, transport, office space and communications facilities.

The Fund, which is now fully operational, will be managed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mozambique, acting through the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at Headquarters. Various Member States have made commitments to contribute to the Fund, including Italy, which has already made an initial contribution of some $5.8 million.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman said today that the Status of Forces Agreement between the United Nations and Mozambique was now in place. The Security Council adopted in mid-April resolution 818 (1993) urging the parties to set a timetable for the peace process in Angola and seek agreement with the United Nations on the free movement of troops. The target date for the full deployment of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) was originally 1 May, but because of administrative delays both on the part of the United Nations and the troop contributing countries deployment has not yet been completed.

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The Principality of Monaco has asked to be admitted to the United Nations. The request was contained in a letter to the Secretary-General from the Minister of State of Monaco, dated 14 May, declaring that Monaco accepted the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and pledged to carry them out.

According to a United Nations spokesman today, Eritrea has also asked to be admitted to membership of the United Nations. The Security Council will hold consultations on both countries' requests for membership on Monday, 24 May.

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About $6.18 million would be needed for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Conference, told its Preparatory Committee this morning. Of that amount, $4.38 million had already been pledged, leaving an outstanding balance of $1.8 million.

Announcing that Japan was likely to contribute another $500,000, Dr. Sadik expressed the hope that contributions would come not only from the donor countries but also from "collegues and Governments in the developing world".

Also this morning, United States delegate Timothy Wirth said that his Government fully supported the agenda and the goals of the Conference and would do its utmost to assure its success. President Clinton would ask the Legislature to incorporate funding for population-related initiatives in its foreign aid programmes, he said.

The Conference is scheduled to be held from 5 to 13 September, 1994, in Cairo.

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Dennis Vincent, Chief Inspector of the second interim monitoring team investigating Iraq's ballistic missile programmes has returned to Headquarters after completing a 52-day mission in Iraq, from 27 March to 17 May.

In a press release issued today in New York, the Special Commission, comprised of five experts from the United States, the Russian Federation and Germany, stated that the purpose of the mission was to investigate and assess Iraq's capabilities to produce solid propellant missile systems and to establish the relationships between the various facilities involved in such activities with the Military Industrialization Corporation. The team's activities centred around two facilities - the Al Rasheed Factory, comprising three plants, and the Al Qa'qaa' Establishment; in addition, the inspectors visited a research centre, and other sites related to missile research and development in and around Baghdad.

The information obtained by the team has improved the Commission's understanding of Iraq's past weapons programmes and of its technology baseline. This information should be of use "as and when the Commission is able to commence ongoing monitoring and verification activities, in accordance with the plan approved by Security Council resolution 715 (1991)", said the press release. Implementation of this plan is being delayed by Iraq's refusal to acknowledge its obligations under resolution 707 (1991) and 715 (1991).

The Special Commission was set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991), in connection with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Charles Joseph (Joe) Clark of Canada as his Special Representative for Cyprus with

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immediate effect, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Clark formerly served as Prime Minister and as Foreign Minister of Canada.

Mr. Clark will participate next week in talks to be convened at Headquarters by the Secretary-General with the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, the spokesman said. He recalled that Deputy Special Representative Gustave Feissel had been carrying out consultations on the island for the last few weeks.

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The Chairman of the Committee on the Rights of the Palestinian People, Mr. Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), has said that a recent Paris Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian people revealed a growing expectation by the international community that a threshold had been reached in the long history of the Palestinian question.

Mr. Cisse told the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People this morning that participants at the 26 to 29 April Seminar had agreed that a comprehensive Palestinian economic development plan would be a major factor in achieving the independent development of the Palestinian people. It was felt that they would soon be able to take charge of their own future and exercise economic, as well as political, decision-making, he said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1399
24 May 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ On second day of election in Cambodia, 70 per cent of registered voters have cast their ballot with few violent incidents; "guarded optimism" is rule for UNTAC, says UNTAC spokesman; Security Council, in Presidential statement, condemns recent shelling of UNTAC resulting in death of two Chinese personnel and wounding of seven others.

+ In Western Sahara, both sides show "desire to move towards early referendum", according to report by Secretary-General; will visit Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, as well as MINURSO in first week of June "to make one more effort to seek a compromise solution".

+ New round of joint meetings between leaders of two communities in Cyprus, chaired by Secretary-General, begins at Headquarters; Permanent Members of Security Council and new Special Representative for Cyprus to participate for first time.

+ "Important" negotiations on Haiti are continuing, says Secretary-General's Special Envoy upon arrival in Port-au-Prince; calls upon all parties to help achieve solution to crisis.

+ Vieri Traxler, former Permanent Representative of Italy to United Nations, appointed by Secretary-General as Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for Sudan; will visit region to focus international attention on humanitarian crisis.

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+ Secretary-General's Personal Envoy visited East Timor for human rights information, not to influence individuals, United Nations says in response to allegations in Indonesian media.

+ UNHCR to help almost 100,000 refugees to return to Mali over next two years; security situation there considerably improved since National Pact between Government and opposition groups.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ Some 14 million people infected with HIV which causes AIDS; 30 to 40 million people will have virus by year 2000, according to WHO estimates.

+ Granting of Asturias Award to United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia is "great encouragement" for peace-keepers operating in "difficult environment", says Secretary-General.

+ Families are essential to fabric of society, Secretary-General says in message to Asian and Pacific Preparatory Meeting in Beijing for 1994 International Year of Family.

+ Governing Council of UNEP decides to give priority to capacity-building programmes in developing countries; approves $120 to $130 million to 1994-1995 UNEP programme budget, subject to availability of funds.

+ Secretary-General says Rotary International is part of emerging international public opinion in favour of a stronger United Naticns; cites Rotary's support as example of non-governmental cooperation with Organization.

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The process of bringing peace to Cambodia through elections as foreseen by the 1991 Paris Accords was now approaching its final fulfilment, according to Nabil Saad reporting for United Nations Radio in Phnom Penh. As of today, on the second day of the six-day election, 70 percent of Cambodians had cast their ballot with few violent incidents. In Cambodia's capital city, he said, voters had fought the monsoon rain and political difficulties to express their will. The final results, which are expected on 2 or 3 June, would determine the future of Cambodia.

Mr. Saad also reported that polling stations, which had been shelled by the Khmer Rouge, had reopened only a few hours later. In one case, 200 Khmer Rouge soldiers had presented themselves unarmed to a polling station and were allowed to vote.

According to a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), "guarded optimism" continued to be the rule for United Nations electoral officers. There was only one more day of polling at the fixed stations and four more days at mobile stations, he said.

Meanwhile, the Security Council has strongly condemned the recent shelling of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) at which two Chinese engineering personnel were killed and seven others were wounded. In a statement read out by Council President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation) on Saturday, 22 May, the Council said it took note of a preliminary report that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) had carried out the attack. The Council further asked for an investigation of the incident.

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In Western Sahara, after months of consultations between the United Nations and the parties, both sides were now showing "a desire to move towards an early referendum", according to a new report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, dated 21 May. The Secretary-General had therefore decided to visit the United Nations Mission area in Western Sahara in the first week of June "to make one more effort to seek a compromise solution" and to underscore that the Settlement Plan must be implemented without further delay.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, who travelled to the area in March, has reported back that "some progress had been made" in the talks as Morocco had not expressed objections to the main elements of the outline of a proposed compromise. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) had, for its part, not rejected the compromise outright. POLISARIO had however maintained its earlier reservations about the crucial aspects of the criteria for eligibility to vote.

Both sides had confirmed their desire to proceed promptly with the registration of voters and to cooperate with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). They had also agreed to let tribal chiefs as well as observers from either side participate in the registration process. A 10-member Identification Commission would be established to begin voter registration in June.

Because of delays in the implementation of the Settlement Plan, MINURSO's primary function is restricted to verifying the cease-fire and the cessation of hostilities. Under the plan, signed by both parties in August 1988, the referendum in Western Sahara should have taken place in January 1992.
S/25818

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A new round of joint talks between the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus -- the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots -- were to begin at Headquarters this afternoon, according to a United Nations spokesman. The joint talks, which began last summer, would be chaired by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Security Council President and Permanent Members of Council were also to attend "for the first time" in the talks on Cyprus, together with the Secretary-General's new Special Representative for Cyprus, Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada.

The Secretary-General was going to be personally involved in the talks, which were expected to end this week prior to his departure this weekend, the spokesman said.

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The talks on the Haitian crisis were continuing and the elements for its resolution were now at hand, according to Dante Caputo, Special Envoy of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS).

In a statement upon arrival in Port-au-Prince, on Saturday, 22 May, he expressed the hope that the talks, which he said must remain confidential, could lead towards a solution to the political crisis in that country.

To that end, Mr. Caputo called upon all parties, including all sectors of Haitian society, to be responsible and to demonstrate "a spirit of generosity and dignity".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Vieri Traxler, former Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, to visit Sudan and other countries in the region as Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan. The Special Envoy's mission is intended to focus greater international attention on the humanitarian crisis in the Sudan, particularly the areas affected by civil conflict, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Mr. Traxler would assess the situation first hand and consult with concerned parties on ways to meet humanitarian needs, the spokesman said. In addition to the Sudan, he would visit Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, and would consult with authorities in Nigeria, who had recently hosted peace talks between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Mr. Traxler would be assisted in his mission by Charles LaMunière, Deputy to Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Amos Wako, recently undertook a mission to East Timor to gather information on the human rights situation in the light of the Dili incident of 12 November 1991, according to a statement by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Jakarta. The statement was issued in response to allegations in the Indonesian media that Mr. Wako might have used his meeting with Mr. "Xanana" Gusmao in Dili to seek to influence his attitude in the remaining states of his trial.

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The Personal Envoy's task was to ask questions and to hear views and to report confidentially to the Secretary-General, the statement said. "The idea that Mr. Wako might have played any active role at such meetings, let alone provide encouragement to anyone towards any particular course of action, is entirely without foundation", stressed the statement.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said it would help almost 100,000 refugees who fled fighting in Mali to return home over the next two years. Some 42,000 refugees had fled to eastern Mauritania, 50,000 to southern Algeria and 6,000 to Burkina Faso.

The security situation in Mali had improved considerably since the signing in April 1992 of a National Pact between the Government of Mali and opposition movements in the north, according to UNHCR. As a result, many refugees wanted to return and about 2,000 had already done so spontaneously.

UNHCR said it planned to organize a voluntary repatriation of 12,000 refugees from early July to December 1993, at a cost of $3.5 million. UNHCR and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) were establishing assistance programmes for the returnees.

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Some 14 million people have been infected with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), according the World Health Organization (WHO). The Agency estimates that between 30 and 40 million people will have the virus by the year 2000.

Sub-Saharan Africa was the worst affected area, with over 8 million people infected. Cities have borne the greatest burden, but the virus was following roads and rivers into the African countryside, WHO said. The most alarming trends were in south and south-east Asia, where over 1.5 million adults were infected. Most reported infections were in India and Thailand, but high rates had been seen elsewhere in the region.

"Parts of the world face a catastrophe because of AIDS", said Dr. Michael Merson, Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. He warned that massive financial and political commitment would be needed to slow the epidemic.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed his pleasure to accept the prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation for the year 1993.

In a press release issued today at Headquarters, the Secretary-General stressed that the decision of the Prince of Asturias Foundation to award UNPROFOR was a "welcome recognition" for the Force's efforts to end the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia and a great encouragement for it to continue implementing its mandate in a "difficult environment".

There are currently over 23,000 members of UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia.

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Throughout history, families have been essential to the fabric of society, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the opening of the United Nations Asia and Pacific Preparatory Meeting of the 1994 International Year of the Family, which opened in Beijing today. The message was read out by Henryk Sokalski, Coordinator for the International Year.

It was in the families that one must also find the first fullest expression of equality between men and women, and the full security and recognition of the human rights of chidren, the message said. Mr. Boutros-Ghali also noted that families were at the leading edge of change and were adapting to serious challenges, often under very demanding conditions. Refugee families, migrant families and single-parent families all faced serious problems demanding effective support measures, he said.

Also at the opening session the State Councillor of China, Peng Peiyun, stated that her Government supported the activities of the Year and endorsed its purposes and principles.

Scheduled to conclude on 28 May, the Beijing meeting will be followed by the United Nations Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 9 to 14 August. The results of all the regional meetings will be presented to the General Assembly in December at a special meeting to launch the Year.

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The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has decided to totally reorient the activities of the Programme to implement the mandate entrusted to it under "Agenda 21" - the blueprint for sustainable development for the twenty-first century adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro last June. The UNEP priorities should change from sensing and monitoring to capacity-building, particularly in developing countries, stressed the Governing Council at the conclusion of its seventeenth session on Friday, 21 May, in Nairobi.

The meeting of the 58-member Governing Council also approved a $120 to $130 million programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium, subject to availability of funds.

During the session, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP and Under-Secretary-General responsible for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), pledged that the UNEP would be the flagship of the United Nations system in human resources management.

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Rotary International is part of an emerging international public opinion in favour of a stronger, broader United Nations, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said in a statement to Rotary International's 1993 Convention in Melbourne, Australia.

Rotary's support for the United Nations was an outstanding example of cooperation between the Organization and the non-governmental sector, the Secretary-General told the Convention. That sector could provide a permanent pressure group on the international system to ensure that the ideals of the world community were not set aside.

Rotary had provided generous financial and human resources to United Nations agencies and programmes such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the statement said. Through its Category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Rotary was now able to take part on debates within the United Nations system on key issues facing humanity today.

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